

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our Beauty & Wellness feature.

CWH goes Greek

CHEMIST Warehouse is returning as a major sponsor of the Antipodes Festival, one of the largest celebrations of Greek culture in the world.

Taking place this weekend on Lonsdale St, Melbourne, CWH will host an on-site activation designed to help festival-goers feel and look their best.

Visitors can hydrate with LVL UP, try NYX cosmetics, or play Spin the Wheel for freebies.

"We're all about community, and being involved gives us a meaningful opportunity to connect with our customers and celebrate such a great event together," said Ilias Babalis, CSO, CW Retail.

Sigma posts strong first half results

SIGMA Healthcare has recorded strong sales and profit growth in its financial results for the half year ending 31 Dec 2025, which were released today.

Highlights included a normalised EBIT of \$582.9 million, up 18.7% on the previous corresponding period, and revenue of \$5.5 billion, up 14.9%.

Sales for Australian Chemist Warehouse stores came in at \$5.1 billion, up 17.2%, while international stores recorded a 24.5% increase in sales to \$807 million.

The group added 13 Chemist Warehouse-branded stores in Australia, bringing its total to 550.

Meanwhile, early indications suggest the transformations of the Amcal and Discount Drug Stores are progressing well.

The sale of GLP-1 receptor agonists and similar were noted to have contributed to sales uplift, along with the strategic decision to distribute online orders directly

from stores.

While stating that Chemist Warehouse "is and always will be a house of brands", the group is expanding its portfolio of owned and exclusive label products, with 400 new lines added in the half year.

International markets have also experienced accelerated growth, and with 12 stores opening in the first half year and another dozen to open in the second half, this is expected to continue.

"The first half performance underscores the strength of our integrated business model and the compelling opportunities ahead," said CEO and managing director Vikesh Ramsunder.

"We are delivering growth across all markets and channels, strengthening our product

capability and progressing the integration with discipline."

Ramsunder noted that the first seven weeks of the second half showed continued growth both in Australia and internationally, providing a positive overall outlook for the financial year.

"With solid trading momentum and synergy benefits still ahead of us, Sigma is well positioned to deliver sustained growth and long-term shareholder value," Ramsunder concluded. KB

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MM2026 call for abstracts

ADVANCED Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) has announced that the call for abstracts is now open for Australia's largest and most influential scientific pharmacy conference - Medicines Management 2026 (MM2026).

With this year marking a milestone 50th national conference, the event will be held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre from 22-24 Oct.

This year's theme is 'Limitless', and explores the growing impact of advanced pharmacy practice.

AdPha president Tom Simpson said the 50th conference "is a 'golden' moment for the profession to reflect on how far pharmacy has come - and where it can go next."

"Medicines Management has always been where ideas turn into momentum for our profession," Assoc Prof Simpson continued.

"In this milestone year, we're celebrating not just our history, but the incredible innovation happening right now across pharmacy teams everywhere.

"The 'Limitless' theme is a reminder that great ideas can come from any setting and by anyone interested in making a difference - big or small - to pharmacy practice.

"If you've discovered a new way to improve care, this is your opportunity to share it and inspire others," Assoc Prof Simpson concluded.

Abstracts can be submitted until 11.59pm AEST on 09 Jun - learn more [HERE](#).

Record flu deaths for 2025



FIGURES released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) have revealed that the number of deaths involving influenza during 2025 was the highest recorded for any year this century.

There were 1,701 deaths where influenza was the direct cause or a contributor registered for 2025, compared to 1,045 in 2024 and 611 in 2023.

Other recent years with a high level of influenza mortality were 2019 (1,314 deaths) and 2017 (1,656 deaths).

The figures also show an unseasonably high mortality rate in Nov and Dec, with 95 and 119 deaths respectively, while in Jan 2026, 63 influenza-related deaths were recorded.

The increase was attributed in part to the emergence of a new, fast-spreading H3N2 variant, known as subclade K, that emerged towards the end of winter, and was a leading cause of respiratory-related deaths in Australia in Aug.

First detected in Australia and

New Zealand, it has circulated widely and had spread to more than 30 countries by the end of last year.

The 2026 Southern Hemisphere influenza vaccine will contain an updated H3N2 component, said Professor Patrick Reading, director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza at the Doherty Institute.

"It is always a bit of a race to update the vaccine to give it the best chance of inducing immune responses that provide effective protection during our influenza season next year," Professor Reading said.

Plateauing flu vaccination rates have also been blamed for the record number of flu cases last year (**PD** 20 Oct 2025).

Deaths recorded in 2025 for other acute respiratory infections included 2,161 involving COVID, a marked decrease on the 2024 figure of 5,108, and 582 associated with RSV, which was around 100 more than in 2024. *KB*

Priceline shoots goals for women's health

PRICELINE Pharmacy has announced a new partnership with Netball Australia, becoming the Official Pharmacy, Health and Beauty Partner of the Suncorp Super Netball League.

The two-year partnership, which starts next month, reinforces the pharmacy giant's commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of Australian women, families and local communities.

Netball is the most played team sport for females in Australia, while Suncorp Super Netball has the highest attendance of any women's sporting league in the country, providing Priceline Pharmacy with a strong platform to connect with engaged fans.

"Netball holds a unique place in Australian culture, uniting women and families from grassroots clubs to elite competition," said Priceline Pharmacy's general manager marketing, Corrina Brazel.

"As a pharmacy network with a long-standing commitment to women's health, this partnership is a powerful proof point of the role we play in supporting women's wellbeing at every stage of life.

"Exercise and staying active are fundamental to overall health, and by teaming up with Netball Australia, we're reinforcing that Priceline Pharmacy is a true destination for women's health - both on and off the court," she added.

The partnership will be backed by netball and lifestyle clinics, and stadium, in-store and online activations.

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Editor's Choice: Aussie haircare brand ready for pharmacy distribution

AUSTRALIAN haircare brand Done has launched the new Ultimate Root Retouch Kit (RRP \$76), making it easy for consumers to take care of grey regrowth in just 10 minutes with salon-grade results from the comfort of their own home.

According to the brand, the new kit is positioned "between supermarket box dye and time-intensive salon services".

Each kit includes a colour developer, barrier cream, hydrating shampoo, conditioner and gloss treatment.

Featuring Done's Conscious Colour formula and free from ammonia, PPD, resorcinol, phthalates and parabens, the new product delivers 100% grey



coverage with results lasting up to six weeks.

Done launched two years ago by award-winning entrepreneur

Hannah Spilva and is now ready for pharmacy distribution.

For wholesale enquiries contact: hannah@donehair.co.

Calmer therapy



AUSTRALIAN brand Calmerceuticals offers a wide range of ingestible and topical skincare products that address a range of needs, from boosting collagen to offering support for women going through perimenopause.

Unlike other brands offering powder supplements, Calmerceuticals uses a liquid format in its Verisol range to boost collagen for the skin, hair and nails.

Meanwhile, other products include PeriCalm, a supplement that "addresses the root causes of hormonal imbalance" and the Ultra Performance ranges formulated with adaptogens, antioxidants, vitamins and collagen peptides to support energy and resilience.

According to founder Rosie Rayner, Calmerceuticals is "raising the bar on what supplementation should be", with products that are "scientifically proven, clinically validated, and engineered to deliver real, and proven results".

"We here to reinvent the industry, with clean, evidence-based formulations that outperform everything you thought a supplement could do," she said.

Read my glossy lips

THE new Revlon Illuminance Gloss Balm SPF 50+ (RRP \$27) offers a tinted gloss as well as sun protection.

It comes in eight shades: Cloud Kiss, Pink Shine, Peach Spice, Dusty Rose, Caramel Glaze, Cherry Whirl, Berry Noir and Mocha Haze.

Available now in pharmacies across the nation.



New Weleda products to nourish and hydrate



WELEDA has released a range of brand new body products into the market this month, featuring ingredients that are kind to the planet and nourish the skin.

The Weleda Skin Food Body Lotion is ideal for dry and itchy skin, featuring a blend of chamomile, calendula, and rosemary for intense hydration and long-lasting moisture.

Meanwhile, the new Revitalising Serum Body Lotion - Blue Gentian includes a serum-infused formula to protect the skin barrier, improve skin elasticity and help prevent the appearance of blemishes.

Other new products in the range include the Weleda Firming Serum Body Lotion - Pomegranate and the Weleda Regenerating Body Lotion - Sea Buckthorn.

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Beauty & Wellness
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Dispensary Corner

NEW mother Grace Bell is the first woman in the UK to give birth to a baby using a transplanted womb from a deceased donor.

Only two previous cases have been reported in Europe so far.

Bell has Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome, a rare condition resulting in an underdeveloped or missing womb, but in Dec, she gave birth to baby Hugo.

"There are no words to say thank you enough to my donor and her family," she said.

"Their kindness and selflessness to a complete stranger is the reason I have been able to fulfil my lifelong dream of being a mum."

Five other organs from the same donor were transplanted in four people, saving the lives of others.

The donor's parents said that "losing our daughter has shattered our world in ways we can barely put into words", but organ donation has "given other families the precious gift of time, hope, healing and now life".

Blooms celebrates NT wins

BLOOMS The Chemist is celebrating excellence in the Northern Territory, with Darwin CBD Plaza and Darwin Galleria pharmacist-owner, Claire Ross (pictured) being crowned Community Pharmacist of the Year at the 2026 Northern Territory National Pharmacy Awards.

Blooms The Chemist Darwin CBD Plaza was also recognised as 'Outstanding Pharmacy' at the NT Local Business Awards in Oct 2025.

The awards reflect Ross's passion for providing accessible, trusted healthcare services to her local community.

She said it was "an incredible honour and deeply meaningful" to be handed the award.

"This award reflects not just my work, but the dedication of my entire team and the trust of the community we serve," Ross said.

"To be recognised by peers and the profession in the Territory I call home is something I'm immensely proud of," she added.

In addition to improving access to primary healthcare in the NT, strengthening Aboriginal health outcomes, and mentoring the future generation of pharmacists, she is currently undergoing full scope training to deliver more



timely, effective care.

"Ultimately, it's about improving access and outcomes, especially in the Territory where healthcare gaps can be significant," Ross said.

She acknowledged the collective effort behind her success, including the practical support and professional development provided by Blooms The Chemist.

"Being part of a network that encourages innovation and continuous improvement has been invaluable, especially as a Pharmacist and business owner," Ross said.

State and territory winners of Community Pharmacist of the Year are in the running for the national title, which will be announced during the opening plenary at APP2026 on 12 Mar. KB

Clinect inks deal on Qutenza

AUSTRALIAN medicines marketing company Clinect has secured an agreement with German-based pharmaceutical company Grunenthal, giving it the exclusive marketing and distribution rights to Qutenza in Australia.

Qutenza is a topical 8% capsaicin patch indicated for the management of peripheral neuropathic pain, and has been approved in the US and EU.

Under the agreement, Clinect will be responsible for obtaining marketing authorisation for the product.

"We firmly believe in the benefits that this non-opioid treatment option can provide to people suffering from peripheral neuropathic pain and continue to work on expanding its footprint to reach more patients worldwide," said Jan Adams, CCO at Grunenthal.

"Clinect is an experienced specialist with a strong presence in Australia, and I look forward to joining forces with their team to bring our brand to Australia, a major market of the Asia-Pacific region."

YEAR IN REVIEW

Our analysis of the biggest news of the year

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